

4 August 71

Dear Hal,

Frame-Up received, thanks—and thanks, too, for the inscription.

Various carbon copies you sent do have their interesting moments, primarily in that they sometimes bring to the surface certain speculations we hadn't ourselves recognized. As example: one of the memos (unsigned) suggests that cross-word puzzle descriptions might have been used. Sounds quite possible; we hadn't thought of it, I suppose, because neither Jean or I work the puzzles anymore.

We note, too, that others have mentioned William of Ockham. I still think it fits, razor and all.

But the whole "riddle" still defies interpretation (if there is any) because its central key (if it has one) isn't visible, at least to us.

Publisher you mention, William Gaudet, unknown to me. Rest of your handwritten note not clear to me—is enclosed here for you to clarify. Regarding small pub. directories, I'll look and see what we have and send anything not presently in use along to you. You needn't bother to return them. And of course I'll be glad to check discreetly on others perhaps not mentioned in most listings, if I can. Most of them arrive and depart rather abruptly, as you know.

Regarding the issue of INNOVATOR mentioned in my last letter: only the April 1965, with the "Comrade Oswald...etc.," piece is of great interest to me. You needn't send copies of the other issues unless you think they contain something else I should see/read. But if you could manage to send a copy of any issues of ZENARCHY you might have, I'd greatly appreciate it.

Some fragments (and, alas, no more than fragments):

line 8 "fission chip" a bullet?

line 11 "Lilacs" makes me think of Whitman's poem on the death of Lincoln: "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," but a reading of the poem just now reveals no clear tie or reference to the riddle. Too, there is the old folksong, periodically revived in one guise or another, "Green Grow the Lilacs."

But you see, the risk of endless speculation, leading in no particular direction, is very great. A key of some sort has to be uncovered...

More later—

P.